2:Musil S-4, 5 (no date)1928 MD4 Rwala MD4

8. The bridge of her nose glistens like the blade of an Indian sword;
   To pearls and corals her teeth I compare.
9. Oh, her spittle! Like viper-wine it is used,
   For it heals one bitten by a snake as soon as he drinks of it.
10. Oh, the neck of my darling! like that of a gazelle
    Or the white antelope which men hunt on horseback.
11. Her breasts are adorned by tattooing with gems precious and costly.
    Which neither the wealth of Persia nor of Syria could buy.
12. Her breasts, they are apples, — alas, for my loss that has bereft me of reason! —
    A china cup set on a tray.
13. Her arms glisten as a silver pot,
    And her little finger is a burnished gold stick.
14. How slender is she! I think not she has yet born children.
    To a sprig of wild cherry I liken her, as it sways in the air.
15. O ye who hear this voice, have mercy on me!
    O Moslems! will you not pity one dead?
16. Bring here my mistress, set her before me
    And on my breast lay her when I die.
17. Oh, may he who reviles me have no kin,
    Or become a captive seized by unbelievers.

The poet was Nimr eben ʿAdwân; the reciter, Ǧwâd al-ʿÂni. The poet sits on a steep stone pile, laments, and describes the beauty of his dead sweetheart, with whom he wishes to be buried. Verse 1. *Ḥorr šemâli* is a camel recognized as pure-blooded by the tribes camping in al-Belḳaʾ and the Ḥawrân districts, whereas the tribes living farther east and south deny this, declaring it is by no means certain that both of its parents were thoroughbreds. 3. *Riǧm* is an artificial pile of stones. Such piles are usually found on the most prominent hills and serve as shelters for the watchers or spies, who, lying down at their post, may observe the whole country around. *Ṣadir* is a hollow in a channel where the rain water remains even when the stream had dried up. 5. *Ṣalab* is a feather from the hips of an ostrich, used as an ornament or bouquet. 9. *Dâbb* is any poisonous snake of some length; short ones are known as *efâʿi*. 11. The breasts are often covered with tattooed patterns in imitation of various jewels.